



# 2002

## State of the Beach Address

### Celebrating Mission Beach Improvements

# District 2 Update

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*On Friday, June 22, the day of the Summer Solstice, Councilmember Wear gave a "State of the Beach Address" to celebrate physical improvements that have recently been made to Mission Beach. Through the efforts of many community leaders, City of San Diego workers and the District 2 office, Ventura Plaza, new restrooms, the widened boardwalk and landscaping have made San Diego's "beach experience" even better than before. Below are excerpts from the "State of the Beach Address."*

Today we celebrate the first day of summer. And I can't think of a better way to do so than by coming down here to Mission Beach with my family and sharing in some good beach fun with all my friends. This is the place to be. Land's end. Mission Beach – the quintessential Southern California beach experience. It's where the world comes to get some sand between their toes and take a dip in the mighty Pacific.

We've been working on a host of improvements for Mission Beach and today's event is to celebrate the completion of some of those projects. I also want to outline a vision for the next several years which includes revitalizing Belmont Park and bringing efficient rapid transit to the beach.

You may have noticed a new and improved Ventura Place. This is the result of a \$720,000 facelift that upgraded the street and sidewalks, provided new lights and trash receptacles, and added additional irrigated palm trees. Later on this summer we will be unveiling a public art project–The Green Flash–in the plaza just north of the lifeguard tower.

And just in time for the July 4<sup>th</sup> holiday, we will open a new \$750,000 public comfort station to replace the aging facility that has graced this park since 1961. Five years ago, I met on site with our Park & Rec Department and told them I would find the funding for a new facility. Well, we did it and it's about time! Equipped with family restrooms, showers and changing rooms, and an architecture that complements Belmont Park, it is truly state of the art.

One project that I am particularly proud to recognize is our beach wheelchair

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Focus in August: Special Initiatives

# On The Docket

*The City Council dockets are issued each Wednesday preceding the Monday and Tuesday meetings. Please call the City Clerk at 619/533-4000 for Docket information. Online, dockets can be read at <http://clerkdoc.sannet.gov/Website/city-docket>. Manager's reports can be read at <http://clerkdoc.sannet.gov/cmr/index.html>*

*There will be a public meeting of the San Diego City Council on Tuesday, July 30 at 6 pm. The meeting will be at the Don Powell Theatre at San Diego State University, 5500 Campanile Drive, San Diego, CA 92182.*

*On the docket on August 5 are amendments to the College and Navajo Community Plans to accommodate the MTDB East Trolley Line expansion.*

## District 2 Update

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**Those puddles you see on the Pt. Loma High School Athletic Field will soon be gone thanks to the Turfing Project that has brought community leaders, business leaders, school officials and Councilmember Wear together. Above, from left, Ron Cunningham, from the school's Foundation & Alumni Association, Councilmember Wear, and Principal Mike Price. Wear gave \$40,000 in Community Development Block Grant funds to the Turfing Project.**

## Affordable Housing Project for Very Low Income Approved



The City Council recently approved the development of a 24-unit housing project that will accommodate tenants of the lowest income levels. Catholic Charities will develop the project with financing provided from the Centre City Development Corporation and the Naval Training Center Homeless Assistance Agreement. Councilmember Wear was a strong advocate of the development to be located Downtown, which is part of District 2.

“This population is sorely under-served in San Diego County in terms of permanent affordable housing,” said Wear. “Catholic Charities’ development will provide a new start for a neglected population with critical housing needs.”

The units will be restricted to extremely low-income special needs San Diegans earning only 40% of average median income.

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program. Last year, here in Mission Beach, we unveiled the beach access program for persons with disabilities. Now, people confined to wheelchairs can role out onto the beach and get some sand between their toes. This program has been a huge success. We are the first City in the United States to provide these chairs and people have been coming from all over the nation to check them out. Thanks are due to Wes Johnson and Accessible San Diego, which specializes in tourism resources for persons with disabilities.

It is also important that we strike a balance between enhancing public access and preserving the neighborhood. I have been pleased at the success of the boardwalk widening project and believe it will go a long way towards alleviating traffic and congestion that we have all encountered on this scenic coastal thoroughfare.

At the same time, I fought hard to get Mission Beach residents to the top of the list for underground utilities. As you may have read, we are going to bury all of the overhead power lines and telephone wires within the next 3 years. This will dramatically improve the appearance of this community and open up important view corridors. There will be some inconveniences during the construction process but everybody will enjoy the finished product.

There is no question that our beaches are the reason many people live here and many more visit. Keeping our beaches vital is a top priority. That is why, last year, we strongly supported SANDAG's project which provided 100,000 cubic feet of new sand for Mission Beach. Without consistent sand replenishment of our beaches, there will be fewer and fewer grains with which to build our dream castles. Every City in the region, not just San Diego, needs to continue to fund future sand replenishment projects.

How fitting that I am joined here today by my esteemed City Council colleague, the Honorable Scott Peters, the State of California's newest Coastal Commissioner. I should also acknowledge Patrick Kruer, another Coastal Commissioner, with years of service striving to preserve our precious coastline. Preserving public access to our beaches is one of the important responsibilities of the California Coastal Commission.

San Diego is pleased to host the U.S. Lifesaving Association National Lifeguard Championships, Aug. 9,10,11 in Pacific Beach. Lifeguards from across the nation will compete in endurance and skill events. Supervisor Greg Cox joined with Byron Wear in providing funding for this event. For more information go to [www.uslanationals.org](http://www.uslanationals.org)

Councilmember Peters and I recently voted to support a study of spawning grunion in an effort to ensure their numbers remain high so future generations can enjoy one of the true wonders of nature—the grunion run. I'm happy to say, they're coming back in record numbers due to some modifications in our kelp removal process. Thanks to Melissa Stador and Shara Fisler of Project Pacific who have spearheaded the study. We may actually prevent this from becoming a problem in the future.

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One of my top priorities is Belmont Park and our effort to return the Park to its once premiere status. A city leasehold, it has significantly deteriorated much to the displeasure of the Mission Beach community. The Park is still a great place to bring your family for a roller coaster ride — but it is not the destination it once was. That is why the City of San Diego has negotiated a new lease with a local kid and successful businessman, Tom Lochtefeld. A Mission Beach native, Tom is the founder and owner of Waveloch, a company that builds wave machines for those board sport enthusiasts in search of the perfect wave. His technology is responsible for the success of water parks around the world such as Raging Waters in Los Angeles. Tom has turned his sights on Belmont Park

and I am confident he will work his magic with this facility and bring it back to life. Belmont Park will see good fortunes again as Tom transforms this somewhat faded memory into a family-style destination and community resource of which we can all be proud.

There is still much to accomplish. We will never solve the parking and traffic problems facing Mission Beach until we give people an alternative to driving their automobiles. That is why I am pleased to announce that initial funding has been obtained to conduct an environmental analysis by the Metropolitan Transportation Development Board to build the North Bay Guideway — a transit system that will utilize the latest in commuter vehicle technology to travel its own right-of-way from the Old Town Transit Center across the Sports Arena, to Sea World, Quivera Basin and Belmont Park.

The community of Mission Beach has put up with numerous inconveniences over the past couple years while the City has been constructing these improvements.

Thanks for your patience and perseverance. But, most of all, thank you for your support. Now, let's enjoy the beach!



*Bridget Cantu Wear and Councilmember Byron Wear*

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